

Wednesday, November 22, 2000

Founder's Day

1908-2000



Programme

Welcome

Mr. William Mitchell
Headmaster

Recognition of Volunteers

Presentation of the Speirs Medal

Remarks by:

Mrs. Mary Knecht
Friend and Fellow Selwyn House School Volunteer

Mr. William Mitchell
Headmaster

Presented by:

Mr. Michael Goldbloom '69
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Posthumously to:

The late Mrs. Nancy Pitfield

Accepted by:
Senator Michael Pitfield

The late Mrs. Nancy Pitfield

Speirs Medal Recipient - 2000

The late Nancy Pitfield was the epitome of an exceptional volunteer. She worked tirelessly, was an effective organizer, always cheerful, and everyone enjoyed working with her. From 1985-1993, while her son Tom, '93, attended Selwyn House, she volunteered her time in the library, assisted with make-up for school plays, and was a member of the Garage Sale Committee which she chaired for two years. Outside of Selwyn House, her volunteer contributions were made at ECS, the Montreal Neurological Institute, St. Matthias' Church and various other charities.

Nancy grew up in Toronto where she trained as a nurse in the '60s working on the psychiatric, intensive care, and emergency wards in a number of hospitals in Toronto. She met her future husband, Michael Pitfield, through friends, one being the late Pierre Trudeau, and they were married in 1971. They lived in Ottawa and Boston before moving to Montreal. Nancy and Michael raised three children: Caroline, Thomas, and Katie. Nancy always considered the family dog, Farley, to be their 4th child.

Perhaps Nancy's most significant contribution at Selwyn House was as convener of the Garage Sale. She volunteered because she valued the School and genuinely wanted to help it by building its sense of community. She had a flair for organization and marketing. Not only did she enjoy managing the many details of the Garage Sale, she took great pleasure in finding the best "stuff" for the sale itself. Her personable way with people was remarkable and left everyone feeling that they were her best friend.

Nancy died on September 20, 1999 after a two-year battle with cancer. Last fall, the Nancy Pitfield Scholarship Fund was established at Selwyn House School with funds from the Gryphon Sale, a sale of second-hand uniforms, organized by parent volunteers. Also, the parent volunteers of the Fall Event (formerly known as the Garage Sale) established the Nancy Pitfield Memorial Fund, at the Canadian Cancer Society.

Nancy's humility, sensitivity, intelligence and warmth are the legacies she leaves to Selwyn House. One of the mottos she lived by was: "There, but for the grace of God, go I." She honestly liked and cared for everyone she met. She had so much to give and she gave it, graciously and generously – to her family and to others. A life has gone, part of Selwyn House has gone. Her spirit and our memory of Nancy however will live on.

THE SPEIRS MEDAL

The Speirs Medal is presented each year at Founder's Day to the person whom the Board of Directors of the School feels has made a significant contribution to the Selwyn House Community over the years.



PAST SPEIRS MEDAL RECIPIENTS

1999 THE LATE DR. BYRON W. HARKER	MR. ROBERT C. PATERSON '41
1998 MR. ALAIN WEBER	1989 MRS. PATRICIA MARSH
1997 MR. JAMES IVERSEN	1988 MR. EDWARD M. BALLON '39
1996 DR. VICTOR GOLDBLOOM '37 & MRS. SHEILA GOLDBLOOM	1987 MRS. CHRISTIAN I. MARKLAND BORCHARD
1995 MR. HUGH H. NORSWORTHY '36	1986 MR. WILLIAM HINGSTON DALY '52
1994 MR. ALEXIS S. TROUBETZKOY	1985 MR. EDGAR C. MOODEY
1993 MR. CONRAD F. HARRINGTON '26	1984 MR. F. GORDON PHILLIPS
1992 MR. TIMOTHY R. CARSLEY '52	1983 MR. DAVID M. CULVER '39
1991 COLONEL JOHN G. BOURNE '32	1982 HONOURABLE G. MILLER HYDE '17
1990	

Captain Algernon Lucas

Captain Lucas was born in England on November 7, 1879. He graduated from Selwyn College, Cambridge, in 1903, after which he came to Canada and taught at a school in Brockville.

In 1908, Captain Lucas started Lucas School with seven pupils in a small flat on Crescent Street. Within two years, the school moved into a house on Mackay Street.

Captain Lucas transferred ownership of the school to Mr. Macaulay in 1912, in order to pursue a career as an insurance broker. In 1914, Captain Lucas went to England, and secured a commission in the Life Guards. He was wounded in France and, whilst convalescing in Ireland, was killed by a sniper's bullet in 1916.

Mr. Colin Campbell Macaulay

Mr. Macaulay arrived in Montreal in September, 1911. He was an old friend of Captain Lucas, as they had obtained their degrees from Selwyn College at the same time. Mr. Macaulay taught at Lower Canada College for one year before taking over the Lucas School from Captain Lucas. It was the association of the first two headmasters with their common Alma Mater that led Mr. Macaulay to rename the school, Selwyn House.

Mr. Macaulay retired in 1929. He returned to England where he died in 1958 at the age of 83.

In this its 92nd year, the school has grown to its present size of 564 pupils, and now occupies two buildings in Westmount.

In honour of Captain Lucas and Mr. Macaulay, and in celebration of the opening of the new building in 1986, two plaques were unveiled. The Macaulay plaque, donated by the graduates of '86, was designed for the new building, and the Lucas plaque identifies the main building.

Dr. Robert Speirs

Dr. Robert Speirs was Headmaster of Selwyn House School from 1945 to 1971. During this time, the school moved from Redpath Street to its present location. Furthermore, Grades 10 and 11 were added so that students could stay at the school for a complete elementary and secondary education.

Dr. Speirs was a wonderful person who touched all those around him. He impressed upon the students the value and pleasure of warmth in human relations. Dr. Speirs will be remembered as one of the great Headmasters of Selwyn House.

Selwyn House Association Board of Directors

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2000-2001

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

George Sopel '86

LONDON, ENGLAND

David F. Skinner '82



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